



Jon French



Bob Sinclair



Rich Bunch

'Bone' section loves to play

Jon French played in school bands from his early days at Burlington, Wash. Today he plays in half a dozen groups. Besides the BPA band, he plays in the One More Time Around Again Marching Band, the Mt. Hood Pops Orchestra (for 20 years), the Get a Life Marching Band, the Second Wind jazz

group, and a 25-piece brass choir that plays at Warner-Pacific College.

Bob Sinclair grew up in New Jersey. He played in school bands there and with the Fairleigh Dickinson University jazz band during his last two years of high school. Sinclair's musical highlights came in 1963 and 1964 while he attended Emporia College in Kansas. He auditioned statewide and was selected as one of only four brass players each year to play with big name bands for a week. The first was Doc Severinsen's group from the Johnny Carson Tonight Show Band. The second year was with Warren Covington who had taken over the Tommy Dorsey Band. "At the end of the week of rehearsals, we gave standing room only performances," Sinclair says.

Woodwinds wail and serenade

Sam Perkins comes from Hawaii and got his interest in music from his mother who played guitar and ukulele. He played guitar in high school and took up the tenor sax in college, in 1982. "At 29, I was the oldest one in classes and I was sometimes mistaken for a teacher," he says. His most memorable experience came when he lived in San Diego and played in a country-western group called Pony Express. "We got to be the opening act for three different big name performers at the Big Oak Ranch," Perkins says. He got to warm up the audiences for Merle Haggard, George Jones and Ray Price.

Lou Tauber began playing clarinet in the fourth grade in Portland. He played in bands at Ainsworth Elementary and Wilson High School. At Portland State he played in orchestra and concert band, and he now plays principal clarinet for the Mittleman Jewish Community Center Orchestra.

Tom Wolf is another Portland native and clarinet player. He played in bands in grade school and at Central Catholic High. He also played two years in a ROTC band in college and then quit playing for years. "When I came to BPA, I joined a group that played each year for the engineering Christmas party," he says. "We later formed the nucleus for RIF and the Early Outs."



Viet Duong



Eileen Jensen



Tom Wolf

Lou Tauber

Three of the trumpet team

Neal Adolf says, "I've been around music for as long as I can remember." The trumpet player in RIF and the Early Outs took piano lessons early from his mother, a music teacher. "I later took up the trumpet and played all through junior high, high school and into college."

Creig Millen played in grade school and high school bands in Gladstone. "In eighth grade, seven of us started a group, The Mariachis,

and we played Herb Albert and the Tijuana Brass material in the 1960s," he says. "We played a campaign gig for Sen. (Richard) Nixon."

Mike D. Miller, RIF himself, started trumpet at age 10 and played in bands all through school. He got a music scholarship to Mt. Hood Community College and was in the jazz lab band that started the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival. He later turned down a music scholarship to the University of Arizona, "because I wanted to study engineering."



RIF and the Early Outs add some swing to employee meetings after being formed was playing for George

How many companies have their own band today? Do any of the Fortune 500 corporations? Any of the major manufacturers? Or any of the big retail or service chains?

Well, BPA may not be up in the charts of business volume with the likes of GE, Microsoft, Enron, Intel or Nike. We may not be among the "favorite" corporations like Ford, UPS, Nordstrom or Southwest Airlines. But BPA does have a lot going for it that most super corporations probably don't have. Like its own band, for one thing.

"RIF and the Early Outs" will be five years old this fall. The full-size swing band – right out of the big band era – formed in the fall of 1995.

Since then, "RIF and the Early Outs" have played at employee meetings, holiday observances, success share celebrations and special events. All at no cost to BPA and for the benefit of BPA and its employees.

Several people had a hand in the formation of the group. But the impetus came from two engineers – Michael D. Miller in Transmission engineering and Bob Sinclair, now retired. Mike eventually became the bandleader, or "RIF" when the group chose its name. And Sinclair is the backup bandleader when Miller can't make practice.

Miller tells how the band got started. "Our work group – the old engineering group – was having a Christmas party and we wanted to have a band to play at it. Some people knew that we still played instruments (Bob and I) and suggested that we could play.

"We began talking with each other and knew some other BPA folks who still played. So 12 of us



Mike D. Miller



Neal Adolf

Kristi Hansen

Creig Millen